WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An optical arrangement for directing illumination light to a sample and for directing the detection light proceeding from the sample to a detector comprising: a polarizing beam splitter and at least one spectrally selective influencing means arranged in the beam path of the detection light that influences the polarization properties of the illumination light reflected or scattered from the sample in such a way that the polarizing beam splitter splits the illumination light reflected or scattered from the sample out of the detection light.

2. The optical arrangement as defined in Claim 1, wherein the spectrally selective influencing means contains at least one prism or one grating.

3. The optical arrangement as defined in Claim 1, wherein the spectrally selective influencing means contains an LCD element.

4. The optical arrangement as defined in Claim 1, wherein the spectrally selective influencing means contains a phase-shifting liquid crystal display mirror-coated on the back side.

5. The optical arrangement as defined in Claim 1, further comprising a further polarizing beam splitter that distributes the detection light onto two light paths which the polarizing beam splitter recombines.

6. A microscope with an optical arrangement for directing illumination light to a sample and for directing the detection light proceeding from the sample to a detector comprising: a polarizing beam splitter and at least one spectrally selective influencing means arranged in the beam path of the detection light that influences the polarization properties of the illumination light reflected or scattered from the sample in such a way that the polarizing beam splitter

splits the illumination light reflected or scattered from the sample out of the detection light.

7. The microscope as defined in Claim 6, wherein the spectrally selective influencing means contains at least one prism or one grating.

8. The microscope as defined in Claim 6, wherein the spectrally selective influencing means contains an LCD element.

9. The microscope as defined in Claim 6, wherein the spectrally selective influencing means contains a phase-shifting liquid crystal display mirror-coated on the back side.

10. The microscope as defined in Claim 6, wherein a further polarizing beam splitter is provided that distributes the detection light onto two light paths which the polarizing beam splitter recombines.

11. The microscope as defined in Claim 6, wherein the microscope is a scanning microscope, in particular a confocal scanning microscope.

12. The microscope as defined in Claim 6, wherein the microscope is a Nipkow scanner.

13. The microscope as defined in Claim 6, wherein the microscope is a line scanner.